



HABIT #6

Synergize

Brief Information about Habit #6

- Synergize is when two or more people work together to create a better solution that either would have thought of alone.
- It's not your way or my way, but a better way
- Talk about the equation: $1+1=3$ (or more)
- How is that possible?
 - One person + another person = 2 ideas + many more than either of them would have thought of alone.

Brief Information about Habit #6

- Synergy is taking good ideas and making them better by working together.
- Discussions can focus on other examples of synergy in nature, history, literature, and personal experiences.
- For example, synergy happens in nature when a flock of geese heads south for the winter. They fly in a V formation because due to the updraft, the entire flock can fly farther than if each bird flew alone

Activities for All Ages


- With your children, choose a problem that you may have (like a curfew or completing tasks). Use the Synergy Action Plan to summarize your child's solution and your solution:
 - Define the Problem
 - Share your Views
 - Think of solutions
 - Choose the best solution together
- See if you can reach a better solution (the High Way) than either of you would have come up with alone.

Activities for All Ages

- Institute a “15 minute program” where everyone drops what they are doing and pitches in to work as a team to clean the kitchen, pull weeds in the garden, wash the dishes, sweep the front porch, etc. Cutting out a small block of time where everyone helps makes the work go quicker.



Activities for All Ages

- If your child has siblings, ask each to identify what they think their brother or sister is really good at, then share the lists with each other and discuss how they could Synergize on homework, chores, playing games, sports, etc. If your child does not have siblings, you can do the same exercise using his or her best friends—or you.
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Primary- Age Children's Reading List - Habit #6

- **Swimmy-** Leo Lionni
- **Ox-Cart Man-** Donald Hall
- **A Chair for My Mother-** Vera B. Williams
- **Clifford's Spring Clean-Up-** Norman Bridwell
- **How the 2nd Grade Got \$8205.50 to Visit the Statue of Liberty-** Nathan Zimelman

Teen Activities

Ask yourself what your biggest listening problem is. Do you “pretend listen”? Do you only listen to give advice or judge? Do you plan what you are going to say instead of really listening? Work to improve your listening skills and model good listening behaviour.

Consider asking your teen to let you know when he or she feels you aren't listening. When it happens, thank him or her, listen, and share back and forth until your teen feels understood.

Teen Activities

- Is there an issue you and your teen always argue about? If so, go to your teen and say, “Help me understand your point of view”. Then really listen without interruptions. When your child is finished, repeat in your own words what you heard until he or she acknowledges feeling understood. Then it’s your turn to speak and your child’s turn to listen.



Upper- Age Children's Reading List- Habit #6

- **City of Ember-** Jeanne DuPrau
 - **A Wrinkle in Time-** Madeline L'Engle
 - **Ruby Holler-** Sharon Creech
 - **Gregor the Overlander-** Suzanne Collins
 - **Alcatraz Versus the Evil Librarians-** Brandon Sanderson
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